

RESOLUTION NUMBER 170

VASHON HIGH SCHOOL

*WHEREAS*, This honorable Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis has been apprised that Vashon High School will be celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> year in the education of our children from 1927 to 2007. Vashon High School, located at 3026 Laclede Avenue, was opened in September of 1927 at a cost of \$1,800,00. During these first years, it housed grades 7–12. In 1930 it became a four year high school; and

*WHEREAS*, In 1922 a group of conscientious citizens, under the leadership of Reverend George E. Stevens of Central Baptist Church, along with various other civic organizations finally convinced the St. Louis Board of Education of the great need for a high school to be built east of Grand Avenue for Black students. It was quite fitting that one of our elementary schools would be named after the Reverend George E. Stevens; and

*WHEREAS*, Vashon was named for two illustrious educators, Mr. George B. Vashon and Mr. John B. Vashon, who were father and son. The elementary school that previously carried the name of George B. Vashon only, and was located in a two-family flat at 5324-26 Northrup, grew into a four year high school at 3026 Laclede Avenue and carried the names of both George B. Vashon and John B. Vashon to its next location 3405 Bell Avenue. The building on Northrup remains and has become a residence again; and

*WHEREAS*, The first principal was James W. Meyers, followed by Frank L. Williams, Mr. William G. Mosley, Mr. C. Spencer Tocus, Dr. A.C. Phillips, Mr. John E. Anderson, Dr. Julius C. Dix, Mr. Ralph Wardlow, Mr. Cozy W. Marks, Jr., Mr. Michael K. Thomas, Mr. Floyd Irons, Mr. Cozy W. Marks. Mr. Ivory Lofton, Mr. William O. Baldwin, Irons, Ms. Dorothy Ludgood, (first female) Mr. Floyd Irons, Ms. Verona Bowers, Mr. Calvin Starks and most recently Ms. Barbara L. Sharp has been added to a long list of dynamic individuals. It is interesting to note that Dr. Julius Dix, Mr. Cozy Marks, Mr. Floyd Irons, Mr. Ivory Lofton and Mr. William Baldwin are all graduates of Vashon High School; and

*WHEREAS*, Vashon's history is written by many outstanding alumni. One of the earliest being Lloyd Gaines whose test lawsuit to enter the University of Missouri Law School went all the way to the Supreme Court; Vitilas "Veto" Reid, who is still the first and only person to have a Post Office named for him while he is alive; Elston Howard of the New York Yankees; Bob Beeks who was only the second Black official in the NFL (class of '44); United States Congresswoman Maxine Waters who keeps up with the exploits of her Vashon Family; and

*WHEREAS*, Vashon's first school newspaper was the Herald, and the yearbook Vashalma evolved into the Wolverine, and our beloved school song "Vashon We Love" was composed by faculty member Otto L. Bohanon; There were only 20 students in the first graduating class, but through the years that followed Vashon has prepared and graduated thousands of students in many classes.

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED* of the City of St. Louis meeting in regular session, that we pause in our deliberation to recognize the accomplishments and congratulate Vashon High School in its new location at 3035 Cass Avenue, along with the On To Victory Vashon United Alumni Association as President Mr. Cozy Marks extends an invitation to one and all to join in the "80<sup>th</sup> Year" Celebration on October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at the Airport Hilton for a two-day celebration of renewing old friendships. We further direct the Clerk to prepare a commemorative copy to that end that it may be presented to our honorees at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 28th day of September, 2007 by:

Honorable Marlene E. Davis, Alderman 19<sup>th</sup> Ward  
Honorable Lewis Reed, President, St. Louis Board of Aldermen  
Honorable Charles Troupe, Alderman 1<sup>st</sup> Ward  
Honorable Dionne Flowers, Alderwoman 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward  
Honorable Matt Villa, Alderman 11<sup>th</sup> Ward  
Honorable Stephen Gregali, Alderman 14<sup>th</sup> Ward  
Honorable Craig N. Schmid, Alderman 20<sup>th</sup> Ward  
Honorable Jennifer Florida, Alderwoman 15<sup>th</sup> Ward  
Honorable Kathleen Hanrahan, Alderwoman 23<sup>rd</sup> Ward  
Honorable William Waterhouse, Alderman 24<sup>th</sup> Ward  
Honorable Dorothy Kirner, Alderwoman 25<sup>th</sup> Ward  
Honorable Lyda Krewson, Alderwoman 28<sup>th</sup> Ward

Adopted this the 28<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2007 as attested:

